Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 EC BRU 05468 181946Z

70
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 (ISO) W
---------- 094226
R 181748Z JUN 75
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9081
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 782
AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 05468

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PO, EEC
SUBJECT: SOAMES PARTICIPATES IN DEBATE ON PORTUGAL AT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1. SUMMARY: ON JUNE 17, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT REVIEWED THE CURRENT SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AND DEBATED THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY IN PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE COMMUNITY TO DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO HELP PORTUGAL "ALONG THE ROAD TO A PLURALIST DEMOCRACY" AND CITED THE NEED FOR IMMEDIATE AND SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. RESPONDING TO STATEMENTS BY PARLIAMENTARIANS CONCERNING INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL, SOAMES AGREED THAT THE COMMUNITY COULD NOT INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PORTUGAL BUT SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO EUROPE THAT THE DESIRE OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE FOR A PLURALIST DEMOCRACY BE RESPECTED AND SUPPORTED. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING A DEBATE ON POTUGAL AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRASBOURG ON JUNE 17, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS MANIFESTED DEEP CONCERN REGARDING INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL AND WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF ACTIONS TAKEN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 EC BRU 05468 181946Z

BY THE MILITARY REGIME SINCE THE APRIL 25 ELECTION.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

HOWEVER, IT WAS GENERALLY CONCEDED THAT THE "CATASTROPHIC" ECONOMIC SITUATION IN PORTUGAL REQUIRES THE COMMUNITY TO SEEKS WAYS OF GRANTING IMMEDIATE AND SUBSTANTIAL AID TO PORTUGAL IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THE "NEWLY-WON FREEDOM OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE." NEVERTHELESS THE PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE EXPLICIT IN STATING THAT THE COMMUNITY MUST BEAR IN MIND THE PROGRESS OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL WHEN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING AID PROJECTS.

3. PETER KIRK (CONSERVATIVE, UK) POINTED TO THE RECENT ANTI-DEMOCRATIC ACTIONS OF THE MILITARY JUNTA AND URGED THAT THE PARLIAMENT AND THE COMMUNITY REMEMBER THE CASE OF GREECE, AND REMAIN VIGILANT IN FOLLOWING POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL. OTHER PARLIAMENTARIANS ALSO REFERRED TO PAST EXPERIENCE WITH GREECE AND SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMUNITY BE PREPARED TO "FREEZE" AID IF IT BECOMES APPARENT THAT SUCH AID IS BEING USED TO PROP UP A DICTATORSHIP.

4. SOAMES, WHO WAS ROUNDLY APPLAUDED DURING THE DEBATE, TOLD THE PARLIAMENTARIANS THAT "WHILE THE EVOLUTION TOWARDS A PLURALIST DEMOCRACY WAS TO BE ENCOURAGED, ONE SHOULD BE NEVERTHELESS CAUTIOUS." SOAMES DESCRIBED THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE AS "VALUABLE AND TIMELY" SAYING THAT THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WOULD DISCUSS THE COMMISSION'S AID PROPOSALS IN LUXEMBOURG ON JUNE 24. THE COMMUNITY AND PORTUGAL, SOAMES SAID, SHOULD NOW BEGIN TO NEGOTIATE IN THE AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL, FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SPHERES. SOAMES FURTHER STATED THAT EC FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL AND IMMEDIATE AND THAT THE GRANTING OF COMMUNITY AID SHOULD PRECEDE NEGOTIATIONS ON A FORMAL FINANCIAL PROTOCOL. HE INDICATED THAT THE DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION IN PORTUGAL IS HAVING A MARKED EFFECT ON THE REGIME'S PROGRESS TOWARD DEMOCRACY AND THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE COMMUNITY AID WILL DEPEND ON THE SPEED WITH WHICH IT IS GIVEN.

5. DURING THE DEBATE, M.P. ANSART OF THE COMMUNIST GROUP WARNED AGAINST COMMUNITY INTERFERENCE IN THE ACTIONS OF A SOVEREIGN STATE AND CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONED AID. NOTING THAT FEW PARLIAMENTARIANS NOW EXPRESSING CONCERN FOR THE PORTUGUESE WERE MOVED TO DO SO WHEN THE COUNTRY WAS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 EC BRU 05468 181946Z

UNDER SALAZAR, ANSART SAID THAT THE FORM OF DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL CAN ONLY BE DECIDED BY THE PEOPLE AND CANNOT BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMUNITY.
RESPONDING, SOAMES TOOK ANSART TO TASK FOR NOT USING THE WORD " PLURALIST" WHEN HE REFERRED TO DEMOCRACY.
"WHAT WE MEAN BY 'PLURALIST DEMOCRACY'" SOAMES SAID, " IS ONE IN WHICH THERE IS MORE THAN A SINGLE PARTY." SOAMES STRESSED

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

THAT THE PEOPLE OF PORTUGAL HAD ALREADY OPTED
FOR SUCH A " PLURALIST DEMOCRACY" IN THE APRIL ELECTIONS
AND CONCLUDED BY ASSERTING THAT IT IS IMPORTANT BOTH TO
EUROPE AND TO PORTUGAL THAT THE COMMUNITY PROVIDE IMMEDIATE
FIANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE.
GREENWALD

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ECBRU05468
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750213-0315
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750636/aaaabgdn.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 FEB 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <18 FEB 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOAMES PARTICIPATES IN DEBATE ON PORTUGAL AT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
TAGS: EAID, PINT, PGOV, PO, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006